



REQUEST 18386

RESPONSE

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information on placements of children into residential children's homes, particularly for those with emotional and behavioural difficulties (EBD) or other complex needs. I confirm that I am seeking aggregated and non-personal data.

1. Current Fee Ranges

- a. Over the past 12 months, what is the lowest weekly fee paid for a placement into an Ofsted-registered children's home for EBD or complex needs?
- b. What is the highest weekly fee paid during the same period?
- c. What is the average weekly fee paid for such placements over the last 12 months?

1.

- a. £3778.18
- b. £21,810.66
- c. £6570.95

2. Fee Benchmarks and Pricing Frameworks

- a. Does your authority have a pricing band, framework agreement, or standard rate card for residential children's placements? If yes, please supply the current version or outline of the pricing tiers (e.g. standard, therapeutic, education, etc.).
- b. Are there different pricing categories based on services provided? For example, some councils supply separate minimum/maximum costs for standard homes, homes with therapy, homes with education, and homes offering both therapy and education. If applicable, please provide your current minimum and maximum weekly rates for each category.
- c. What was the total annual spend on residential children's placements (EBD or complex needs) in the last financial year?

2.

- a. Wigan LA utilises Placements Northwest Residential FPS Framework which can be found at: [NWADCS web portal | NWADCS](#)
- b. These are outlined within Placements Northwest FPS Framework under different 'lots'.
- c. £21,152,800.

3. Provider Landscape

3.

- a. Please list the providers commissioned for residential placements in the past 12 months.
- a. We are unable to provide this.

- b. For each provider, if possible, indicate:
 - The number of placements made.
 - The approximate weekly fee range paid.

c. If the a and b cannot be provided. Please let us know the top 5 providers that you place with in terms of number of placements made with them.

d. Do you operate an Approved Provider List (APL) or Preferred Supplier List (PSL) for residential placements? If so, please supply the latest version or criteria for inclusion.

b. We have provided the top 5 providers on 3C. Approximately weekly fee paid is £6570.95

c. Birtenshaw – 4 placements
 Good Foundations – 4 placements
 All Round Care – 4 placements
 Inspire Children's Services – 6 placements
 New Horizons – 4 placements

d. As above, the LA utilises Placements Northwest Residential FPS Framework. Direct awards are made if no placement can be found with a Framework provider however there is no APL or PSL for this.

4. Placement Volumes and Types

a. How many new residential placements were made in the last 12 months?

b. How many placement requests were issued but remained unfilled?

c. What were the most common reasons for failing to place a child (e.g. lack of suitable providers, price, location, complexity of needs)?

d. What is the average time taken from issuing a placement request to successful placement?

4.

a. There have been 70 residential placement starts in the latest 12 months. Of these 6 were for new to care children.

b. We do not systematically hold this information and to collate for this time period would involve individually reviewing all referrals and would take over 18 hours. We do not currently have any unfilled requests.

c. A child may be placed outside of their care plan due to complexity of need.

d. Unable to answer this question due to varying timescales required

5. Profile Data

For residential placements in the past 12 months, what proportion were:

- Single-occupancy homes?
- Homes for children aged under 10?
- Homes requiring 2:1 staffing or higher?
- Emergency placements (within 24–48 hours)?

5.

This information is based on current placements only.

Single occupancy: 4
 Under 10: 4
 2:1 or higher: 11
 Emergency placements within 24-48 hours: 0

6. Factors Influencing Fee Acceptance

Beyond price, what factors does your authority consider most important when evaluating a provider's placement proposal (e.g. therapeutic model, staff qualifications, Ofsted rating, evidence-based interventions, cultural/linguistic suitability, proximity to the child's home)?

6. Quality is assessed before cost - Ofsted judgement, statement of purpose, operating model including staff skills, Regulation 44 reports, references, proximity to LA, ability to maintain school provisions, local risk assessments.

7. Current Market Pressures

In your view, what are the biggest challenges in securing residential placements at present (e.g. shortage of beds, escalating fees, provider closures, staff recruitment issues)? Recent research notes that local authorities face rising numbers of children in care with complex needs, a shortage of secure provision, recruitment difficulties, and reliance on private providers. Please indicate which of these (or other pressures) you are experiencing most acutely.

7. Wigan currently have no marketing pressures in relation to our residential market.

8. Additional Information

- a. Do you publish a sufficiency strategy or market position statement relating to residential children's care? If so, please provide the latest version or a link to it.
- b. What percentage of placements in the past 12 months were outside your local authority area, and why?
- c. What proportion of placements were procured through framework agreements or block contracts versus spot purchasing?
- d. When assessing tenders, do you operate a weighted scoring system (e.g. quality vs. price)? If so, please provide the current weightings or evaluation criteria.
- e. What is the average duration of placements for EBD or complex needs in your authority?

8.

- a. Yes, this can be found at: [Sufficiency Strategy 2025-2028](#)
- b. We do not hold information in this format and it does not form part of our statutory reporting requirements. We can tell you that on average over the last 12 months 29% of our children in care are placed outside of the borough
- c. This is based on current placements – 59% were procured through framework agreements with the remaining 41% via spot purchase.
- d. We have recently purchased Care Cubed model of evaluation which will work alongside our due diligence checks.
- e. This is based on current placements – 79 weeks

f. If recorded, what are the most frequent reasons placements end prematurely (e.g. provider decision, safety concerns, improved child outcomes)?

- What types of provision are currently hardest to source (e.g. solo homes, therapeutic models, secure placements, homes for under-10s, culturally specific homes)?
- In the last 12 months, how many placements were made in unregulated provision due to a lack of regulated homes?
- Does your local authority commission or pilot innovative residential care models (e.g. family-style homes, step-down services, trauma-informed models)? If so, please provide brief details

f. These reasons are not systematically recorded.

Secure home.

One

No.

9. Team Contact Information

For future engagement, please provide the general contact details (e.g. team email address or telephone number) for the team responsible for managing residential children's home placements/referrals/social workers. I am not seeking personal data about individual staff members; a generic contact or mailbox is sufficient.

The team does not have a shared contact number. Email address:

placementsearches@wigan.gov.uk